

## Denver Zoo Food & Beverage Manager answers 15 questions . . .

The Denver native, Paul Marcely, said as the baby of the Marcely family, he was “very, very spoiled” as a child by his older brothers and other relatives.

But he now considers those who spoiled him as a youngster as his heroes. His heroes include his Uncle Kevin and his two brothers, Mike and Marty. (Yes, Kevin McNicholas is his uncle.) He shared that he watched what they have done, and he tries to follow in their footsteps.

The smartest thing that Paul (known as “P.D.” to the Denver crew) claims he did was to go work for K-M/SSA on a full-time basis several years ago. After college, he was a water district maintenance worker, and then he went to work for VICORP Restaurants, which own and operate Village Inn and Bakers Square restaurants. After joining the company, Paul worked with his brother, Marty, at the Dog Track and then went to work for his other brother, Mike, at the Denver Zoo.

While in high school, he played baseball. He also met his future wife, Eva, when exiting the elevator at Abraham Lincoln High School; he had to use the elevator because he suffered a sports injury and was hobbling on crutches. Paul claims they made eye contact and started flirting as they walked into class. “She thought I was the best thing ever.” They dated on and off for four years and finally married in 1989. They have two children, P.J. and Jessica.

Eva recently held a 40<sup>th</sup> birthday party for Paul at the Beef Palace, a private Club at the National Western Complex. Paul called it one helluva of a party and one the funniest parties that he has ever attended.

Like many of her in-laws, Eva is also in the food business. She operates Dippin’ Delights, a chocolate fountain rental business.



### *Fast Facts about Paul Marcely*

**Born:** Denver

**College:** Metropolitan State College of Denver where he played baseball.

**Married:** Eva

**Children:** P.J., recent high school graduate and attending Pima College in Tucson on a football scholarship, and Jessica, attending Regis High School

**First KM/SSA job:** Started working part-time selling novelties at football games; has worked 21 stock shows in a row and has worked full-time with KM/SSA for nine years.

Like many K-M/SSA employees, Paul earned extra money while in high school by working football games and selling sno-cones at the Denver Zoo. However, it wasn't until he was in 30s that he joined his brothers, Marty and Mike in working full-time for the Company.

Paul describes himself as a crazy, rambunctious person who's always laughing. And laugh he did when he answered these questions.

**1. What destination would you most like to visit if you could go anywhere?**

I want to go to Hawaii to see the islands and the beautiful water . . . the beaches. HINT: I'm waiting to be sent to take a look at the Honolulu Zoo.

**2. What is your most valued possession?**

My family and friends. I have a loving family. I couldn't live without my friends. Some of my friends I have known since I played Little League baseball. In fact, I'm in a baseball friend's wedding in the next few weeks. His reception is going to be at the Beef Palace.



*Paul, front row, second from left.*



**3. Any passions in life?**

My passion in life is to succeed to the fullest of my abilities and to become a better person. The steps that I need to take include time management; micro manage when necessary, even though I hate to do that, but it does have to happen; and run a tight ship. Everything will fall into place . . . you hope!

**4. If you could have lunch with anyone (from past to present) who would it be?**

I would have lunch with Football Hall of Famer and Denver Broncos quarterback John Elway and future Hall of Famer and Avalanche hockey star Joe Sakic. These two guys have played professional sports for many years, and you know they would have some great locker room stories to share. Also, I would like to hear about how they got to where they're at.

**5. What would be your ideal job?**

My ideal job would be a sports announcer. It would be great to travel from city to city and see all the games.

**6. What have been the high points of the last few years?**

Being promoted within KM / SSA. It's been rewarding and very challenging at times. Especially understanding how weather drives our business so much.

**7. What have been the high points of the past five years?**

Breaking the catering record in the number of dollars and parties generated at the Denver Zoo when I was Director of Catering.



*Paul, with brothers (from left to right) Marty, Mark, and Mike. Cousin Sean McNicholas at right.*

**8. Do you have any hobbies?**

I used to play softball as well floor hockey. The hockey team name was "Ice Holes." I play golf, but I'm not as good as my brothers, Mike with his handicap of at least a 6 or 7, or Marty, his handicap is around 10 – 12. We're very competitive. It's cut throat.



*Kevin Jones, Paul, Mike Marcely, & Kevin McNicholas*

I decided to check out the planter to see if the knife was still there. It was. I dug out it and brought it home. It has a place of honor in my home kitchen.

**10. What is one thing you can't live without?**

I can't live without watching sports on TV and my remote control. I enjoy watching all sports, but particularly, football, baseball and hockey. I don't care for the NBA.

**11. What makes you really angry?**

I usually never get angry. However, I get disgusted at some kids today. They seem to lack respect on many occasions, they litter, and they can be very rude. My kids are very well-behaved. I wouldn't put up with that stuff!

**12. What talent do you wish you had?**

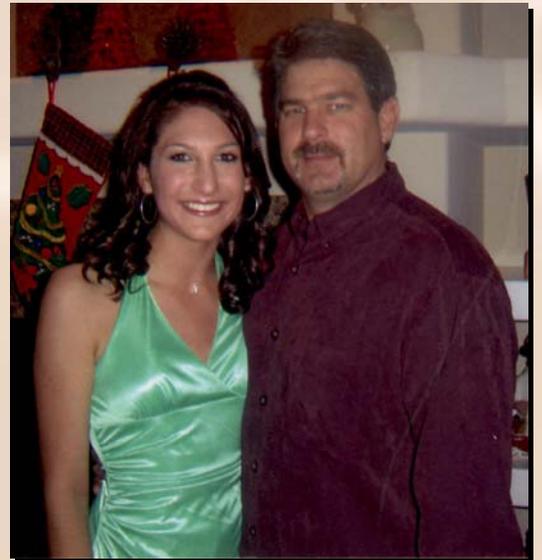
I wish had carpentry and woodworking skills. I have a brother-in-law that can build or put anything together out of wood. I'm all thumbs.



*Paul's son, PJ*

**9. What's one of the craziest things that you have done?**

When I was working at the Dog Track, I was sent to help with an event at the Okalahoma City Zoo with Doc Collins. At Denver International Airport, I entered the security checkpoint, and a security officer quickly pulled me aside to ask what was in my carry-on bag. I had forgotten that I put a 12-inch Chef's French knife in my bag, (I thought I had left it in my car). I got out of line after the guard told me I could take it back to my car. However, I was running late for the departure of the plane, so I stuck the knife in a nearby tree planter. I pushed dirt and mulch up around the handle so it couldn't be seen by other passengers. I went to plane and then had to wait for two hours as my plane was late. When I returned three days later, I decided to check



*Paul with daughter Jessica*

**13. What's one thing that many people don't know about?**

I was kissed by Janet Elway. I was selling programs and souvenirs at Denver Broncos games and the booth was located where the wife of quarterback star John Elway passed when she was going to her seat on game days. When the Broncos won a last-minute thrilling play-off game against the Kansas City Chiefs, the crowd was excited. Everyone was kissing and hugging . . . and I was kissed on the cheek by the wife of my favorite sport star.

**14. What was your favorite toy as a child?**

I liked the Rock'em Sock'em Robots. They were the toy where players, using joysticks, would make their robot punch at their opponent's robot. If a robot's head gets hit with the sufficient force at a suitable angle, its head will pop up, signifying that the other player has won. The game is remembered for the phrase "Knock his block off!"

**15. What are a few of your favorite things?**

**Food:**

Steak, potatoes and pizza. I've been doing 21 years of stock show, what else would I eat?

**Holiday:**

Thanksgiving and July Fourth. At Thanksgiving, you have the family dinner and the fourth of July represents the summer time.

**Book:**

The *Rocky Mountain News*, I read it every day. That does count as book, doesn't it? Also, I have read *Juiced: Wild Times, Rampant 'Roids, Smash Hits & How Baseball Got Big* by José Canseco. It tells of steroid usage in Major League Baseball. I was really surprised at what they did.



*Paul with a National Hockey League All Star Game ice carving. KM catered the VIP event for the NHL All Star Game for over 4,500 guests!*



**TV show:**

*The Office*, a comedy about the day-to-day lives of office employees in the Scranton, Pennsylvania branch of the fictitious Dunder Mifflin Paper Company.

**Entertainer:**

U-2, the rock band from Dublin, Ireland.

**Movie:**

*Caddyshack* (a 1980 U.S. comedy film set primarily on a golf course depicting a farcical clash between classes) and *Meet the Parents*, (a 2000 comedy film where the bride's parents have to approve of their daughter's fiancée.)

**Favorite Color:**

Blue. (*Sarcasm alert*) The color of my eyes.

*Paul preparing for one of his other hobbies...Sumo Wrestling!*